

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 DIONTAE JOHAN DUNCAN,  
12 Plaintiff,  
13 v.  
14 CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE  
15 RECEIVERSHIP CORP., et al.,  
16 Defendants.

Case No. 1:20-cv-01288-SKO (PC)

**ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL**

(Doc. 12)

17 Plaintiff requests the appointment of counsel to represent him in this action. (Doc. 12.)  
18 Plaintiffs do not have a constitutional right to appointed counsel in section 1983 actions, *Rand v.*  
19 *Rowland*, 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir. 1997), and the Court cannot require an attorney to  
20 represent a party under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). *See Mallard v. U.S. Dist. Court*, 490 U.S. 296,  
21 304-05 (1989). However, in “exceptional circumstances,” the Court may request the voluntary  
22 assistance of counsel pursuant to section 1915(e)(1). *Rand*, 113 F.3d at 1525.

23 Given that the Court has no reasonable method of securing and compensating counsel, the  
24 Court will seek volunteer counsel only in extraordinary cases. In determining whether  
25 “exceptional circumstances exist, a district court must evaluate both the likelihood of success on  
26 the merits [and] the ability of the [plaintiff] to articulate his claims pro se in light of the  
27 complexity of the legal issues involved.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

28 ///

1 In the present case, the Court does not find the required exceptional circumstances. Even  
2 assuming Plaintiff is not well versed in the law and has made serious allegations that, if proven,  
3 would entitle him to relief, his case is not extraordinary. The Court is faced with similar cases  
4 almost daily. In addition, at this stage in the proceedings, the Court cannot make a determination  
5 on whether Plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits; and, based on a review of the records in  
6 this case, the Court does not find that Plaintiff cannot adequately articulate his claims.

7       Accordingly, the Court DENIES Plaintiff's motion for the appointment of counsel without  
8 prejudice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

11 Dated: October 14, 2020

1s/ Sheila K. Oberlo  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE